

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7062

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO AORG
SUBJECT: WHO - END OF SERVICE GRANTS

REF: STATE 94061

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. WE HAVE FOUND ONLY SMALL GENEVA GROUP
INTEREST IN TAKING AN INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE DURING
THE CURRENT ASSEMBLY. WHO OFFICIALS ARE NOT WILLING TO
CONCEDE THAT EXECUTIVE BOARD EXCEEDED ITS AUTHORITY.
ATMOSPHERE AT ASSEMBLY NOT SUCH AS TO ENCOURAGE OPTIMISM
OVER OUTCOME OF ANY EFFORT TO RECTIFY SITUATION.
USDEL RECOMMENDS THAT WE NOT PUSH ARGUMENTS SET FORTH
IN REFTEL AT THIS ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT GENEVA GROUP MEETING MAY 2, UK AND FRG REPS
SHOWED MILD INTEREST IN EXAMINING PROSPECTS FOR AN
INITIATIVE TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT WHAT UK DEL
CALLED "SPILT MILK" PROBLEM. CANADIAN REP SAID HE HAD
ALREADY SOUNDED OUT SECRETARIAT ON THIS PROBLEM, GAVE GIST
OF ITS REPLY, AND LEFT IT AT THAT. OTHER MEMBERS SHOWED
NO INTEREST.

3. USDEL, WITH UK DEL CONCURRENCE, CONSULTED MAY 3 WITH
WHO LEGAL COUNSEL, GUTTERIDGE, AND WITH WHO ASST DG
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FOR ADMIN, FURTHER, TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. GUTTERIDGE
SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO "MAKE A CASE" THAT EB HAD
EXCEEDED ITS AUTHORITY, BUT MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLY WOULD

NEVER UNDERSTAND IT AND WOULD IN ANY CASE BALK AT IDEA
OF OVER-RULING EB, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF WIDESPREAD
SYMPATHY FOR EX WHO STAFF MORALE PROBLEM.

4. FURTH HAD DIFFERENT VIEW. HE EXPLAINED HE HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED PROBLEM IN DETAIL WITH CANADIANS AND SO HAD ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND FACTS AT FINGERTIPS. FURTH MAINTAINED THAT PARA 3.2 OF STAFF REGULATIONS CLEARLY AUTHORIZES EB TO TAKE ACTION IT DID. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO TRY TO GET ASSEMBLY TO REVERSE EB DECISION. EFFORT WOULD GENERATE TENSION IN ASSEMBLY AND COULD NOT BUT FAIL. SECRETARIAT PLANS FOR PAYING END OF SERVICE GRANTS TO THE EMPLOYEES IN QUESTION (WHOSE NUMBER HE PUT AT 4 TO 6) WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED EVEN IN UNLIKELY CASE THAT ASSEMBLY DID OVERRULE, HE SAID. DG MAHLER WOULD SIMPLY TERMINATE CONTRACTS A FEW DAYS BEFORE THEY WERE TO END, AND THUS ANY LEGAL OBSTACLE WOULD BE CIRCUMVENTED. FOR MAHLER IT WAS QUESTION OF HUMANITY.

5. FURTH EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT TOUGH CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY EB FOR MAKING THE GRANTS, AND EB'S STIPULATION THAT WHO CONFORM TO UN COMMON SYSTEM ONCE UNGA HAS ACTED, DID NOT WEIGH MORE HEAVILY WITH USG. HE ECHOED POINT MADE EARLIER BY GUTTERIDGE THAT WHO IS FAR MORE BURDENED WITH CONTRACT EMPLOYEES THAN MOST OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SINCE IT HAS LONG RESPECTED MEMBER GOVERNMENT STRICTURES ON APPOINTMENT OF CAREER PERSONNEL. OTHERS HAVE FAR GREATER PROPORTION OF CAREER PEOPLE. THIS POINT MADE IN RESPONSE TO CONCERN WE EXPRESSED OVER DANGEROUS PRECEDENT BEING ESTABLISHED.

6. FURTH SAID SIZE OF PROBLEM SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND.
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TOTAL COST OF PAYING GRANTS TO FEW PEOPLE WHO QUALIFIED IN 1978 IS ESTIMATED BY SECRETARIAT AT \$150,000. FUNDS COME FROM TERMINAL LEAVE FUND, NOT THE BUDGET. AT END OF CONVERSATION, FURTH REMINDS US THAT IN HIS SPEECH TO ASSEMBLY THAT MORNING (MAY 3) THE DG HAD, IN CONFORMITY WITH STAFF RULES, "INFORMED" THE ASSEMBLY OF EB'S DECISION APPROVING THE END OF SERVICE GRANTS. THIS WAS FURTH'S WAY OF SAYING THAT FROM SECRETARIAT'S POINT OF VIEW, MATTER IS NOW SETTLED UNLESS WHA OVERRIDES, AND EVENTUALITY WHICH HE CLEARLY DOES NOT FORESEE.

7. USDEL COMMENT: WE SEE NO PROSPECT OF WINNING THIS ONE. SENTIMENT IN ASSEMBLY IS TINGED WITH SYMPATHY FOR HEADQUARTERS STAFF WHO WILL BE LOSING JOBS IN 1978 UNDER DG'S TOUGH PROGRAM FOR COMPLYING WITH WHA 29.48. AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE DISTANCING OURSELVES FROM WHA 29.48 BY ABSTAINING ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION THUS FAR AND BY ALSO ABSTAINING ON THE BUDGET, WE SHOULD AVOID A DEFEAT ON WHAT WE BELIEVE IS NO-WIN ISSUE. AN ADDITIONAL CON-

SIDERATION IS FACT THAT US HAS LONG PUSHED TO BUILD UP
THE ROLE OF THE EB IN THE WHO SCHEME OF THINGS SINCE WE
HAVE GREATER INFLUENCE THERE. IT WOULD BE
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO TAKE LEAD IN AN EFFORT TO OVERTURN
ONE OF ITS DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY ON ISSUE OF THIS KIND
(UK DEL AGREES). A MORE HOPEFUL APPROACH MIGHT
BE TO AWAIT UNGA POLICY DECISION AND THEN, ON GROUNDS
THAT A UN COMMON POLICY DOES EXIST ON THIS PROBLEM, MOVE
FOR AMENDMENT OF PARA 3.2 OF STAFF REGULATIONS BY DROPPING
ITS LAST SENTENCE.

8. PLEASE ADVISE.SORENSEN

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